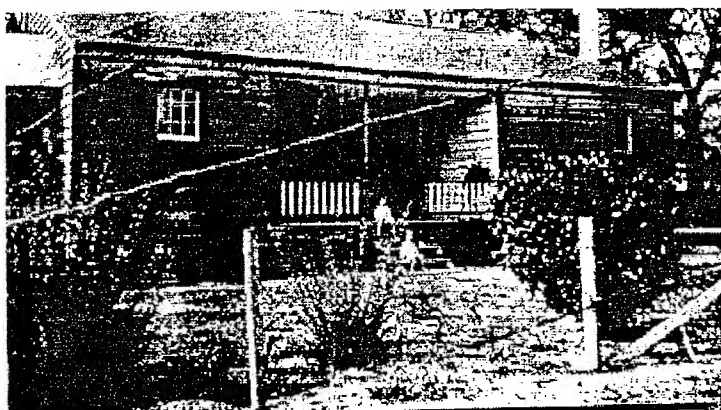


WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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AUGUST 1998



Sahara House

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W C G S

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This Journal contains the longest account of a single Washington County family in the Society's publishing history. Why?

First, because the Newberrys of Skinnersville were a quietly honorable and industrious group of folks who lived among us for many decades, and whose ancestors, today, interface with us and are, in fact, some of us.

This can be said, of course, of most of the surnames on our membership roster. But, the second, and most compelling reason for so prominently featuring the Newberrys is that they left behind a dutifully preserved paper trail of letters and documents equaled by few of their contemporaries. And they sired descendants, of our own generation, who would compile those documents, and collect the old family stories, and preserve the Newberry family history for their kinsmen....and for us all.

We hope that Newberry descendants won't be disappointed by our current concentration on only a few members of their early South Shore family. We realize that we've barely touched on Joseph Doctrine, on James who migrated to Alabama, and many others. Please be patient; you will meet some of them in near-future editions. The gratifying volume of information, in response to our plea, was generous beyond our most optimistic expectations. So, we still have much fine material to work with. We thank all of you who contributed.

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THE NEWBERRYS OF PEA RIDGE

The roots of the family name Newberry go back to Normandy, France, a community about seventy-five miles west northwest of Paris. In the castle of Neubourg lived Roger de Beaumont with his wife Adeline de Muellant. Their son Henry was born there. Hence, he was called Henry de Neubourg (later anglicized to Newburgh). When William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066, Roger furnished sixty armed vessels for the fleet and was left in charge of the government of Normandy. Robert, Henry's brother, took part in the invasion and was later awarded ninety-one lordships or manors in England, mostly in Warwickshire. Though Henry had stayed back in Normandy and had no part in the invasion, he too, was awarded grants of great estates in Warwickshire. It was about eighty miles northwest of London that Henry built Warwick Castle and was created the Earl of Warwick by King William II about 1090. It was about this same time Henry de Newburgh married Margaret de Perche. Their oldest son, Robert (1090-1153), succeeded his father as the second Earl of Warwick.

This information comes from the book *Newberry Genealogy* by Joseph Gardner Bartlett, published in 1914. The writer traces the Newberrys from the New England branch of Thomas Newberry to the antecedents of Henry de Neubourg. It is stated that all Newberrys come from this line, however the name might be spelled.

It appears there were two main immigrations of Newberrys from the British Isles to the American Colonies. Thomas Newberry was among the first. He was born in 1594 and lived until 1636. He was a puritan and came here for religious reasons in 1634 from Dorsetshire, England. He settled in what is now New Dorchester, Massachusetts. Even though he lived here only two years, he is the ancestor of most of the New England Newberrys.

The second immigration was over a span of seventy years (1700-1770), coming from both Ireland and England. They have been called the southern Newberrys because their early locations were North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Since the name John is so common and there is much contention as to where John Newberry I came from, it would be safe to say the John Newberry I blood line comes from England, Ireland, or the British Isles. We do know he spent most of his life on the shores of the Albemarle Sound in Pea Ridge, North Carolina. He was born near the year 1760 and on July 4, 1786 he married Joanna Swain in Columbia, North Carolina. They had nine children—six boys and three girls. This was the beginning of a very prominent family in what was to later be Washington County, North Carolina.

On April 5, 1787 John purchased 100 acres of land from Jesse Lewis. He entered another 50 acres June 26, 1794, which he patented December 18, 1797, just a year before Washington County would be formed from what was then Tyrrell County. The property was named *Sahara Plantation*. The Sahara House was built near the water almost due north behind present day Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church. The land for the church was donated by the Abram J. Newberry family in the summer of 1892. The *Sahara House* burned in the mid-1930's, but was replaced with the same general floor plan, using the same chimneys. William B. Barber was the owner at the time it burned, and it was rebuilt by him.

One of the sons of John I was James Swain Newberry (1797-1862). James was married three times and had nineteen children. He left these parts around 1840 after marrying his

second wife Nancy Freeman of Plymouth. They moved to Cherokee County, Alabama. Nancy was the daughter of William Thomas Freeman. She died March 12, 1853. The first marriage of James was to Sarah Howell about 1817. After six children, they divorced in 1831. The third wife was Sarah Gibson (1829-1868). She died while they were living at Noah, Alabama. The move of James from North Carolina to Alabama caused problems with the settlement of the will of John I at his death. He had willed his land on the sound that he bought from Joseph Paramore and Stephen Swain to be equally divided between his sons James Swain and Abraham (the second son and third son). A search of the deeds reveals that the land bought from the above named became the property of Abraham. Abraham sold it to Josiah Collins and Ebenezer Pettigrew May 9, 1837. Collins and Pettigrew set it out in morus multicaulis (mulberry trees) after having formed a joint venture to explore the profitability of the silk business, which turned out to be a failure. The land was sold to Edward S. Riggs April 17, 1840 and it was referred to in the deed as an orchard.

The Civil War took a heavy toll on the James Swain Newberry family. Between October 1861 and October 1862 seven sons had met their death serving in the confederacy while their father had died of natural causes back home. James died September 24, 1862 at the age of 65.

The Newberrys with the deepest roots at Pea Ridge were John I, John II, Joseph Doctrine and Abram J. (Abram J. was the son of John II— not to be confused with his uncle Abraham.)

Joseph Doctrine was the ninth child, the sixth son of John I. He married Joycy (not a misprint) Davenport March 18, 1830. By 1838, Joycy had passed after having three children. In December of that same year Joe married Elizabeth Elder Gregg, who had come to North Carolina from New York to serve as Governess to the children of Josiah Collins. At that time Joe was the farm overseer of Somerset Plantation. He was serving in that capacity in February 1843 when four little boys drowned in the canal that runs within twenty five feet of the front steps of the Collins mansion. The boys were in a boat in the canal about half way between the house and the mill. At the time the water was about ten feet deep. A servant of Ebenezer was bringing the Collins mail over when he discovered the boys in distress. He immediately notified William Newberry who was an under overseer of the farm. William sent word to Mr. Collins and Joe Newberry in the fields while he adjusted the water gates to lower the water in the canal. Joe and Dick Blount (a negro man) went down into what was then about waist deep water to recover the boys. It had been too long to save them. Mr. Collins had to stand on the bank of the canal and watch the lifeless bodies of his two sons Edward and Hugh, along with two of their enslaved playmates being pulled from the water. Through these trying times, the Newberrys and the Pettigrews stood by their neighbors, giving them a shoulder to lean on.

Joe and Eliza were still living with the Collins' in 1850, but by 1860 they were back on Pea Ridge living on the farm they had purchased from Joe's brother John II.

John II was the sixth child and was born September 12, 1805 at Sahara Plantation. He lived there until his death in 1880. His first wife was Christine (Faith) Spruill. His second wife was Sarah (Sally) McCabe. The first marriage produced six children. The second produced four. All indications are John spent his entire life at Sahara, got married there, raised his family there, and died there. His last years were spent running a diversified operation. There seems to

be no record of John selling his inheritance when Collins and Pettigrew bought that belonging to Abraham. John had inherited the home place and on January 17, 1849 he bought back from Edward S. Riggs that which his brother had sold. He did sell 230 acres to his brother Joseph Doctrine, the place they were living in 1860. This was the land to the east of Shadberry Lane where the water tower is now. Before he died he willed all his land to his son Abram J.

Abram J. was born at Sahara May 12, 1849. He married Deborah Elizabeth Freeman at Sahara May 1, 1867. She was sister to William Thomas Freeman of Plymouth. William Thomas had married Nancy Newberry, sister to Abram J. This marriage brought five children—one son and four daughters—Jim, Sallie, Carrie, Mary and Nannie.

Abram J. was the last of the Newberrys to live at Sahara. They moved to Plymouth in 1920 and according to a deed dated January 1, 1921 sold their belongings on Pea Ridge to P.H. Darden, W.B. Watts and Stewart D. Davis. The plantation that was Sahara was no more. It became known as "the former Newberry land." It is still remembered by such existing names as Newberry Lane and Newberry's Ditch. Tradition says Newberry's Ditch was dug by slaves with a twofold purpose: to irrigate a land that was recently cleared for growing rice and for use as a transportation canal.

The Newberrys were not large slave owners. John I had three males and five females. John II had four males and four females. Joseph Doctrine had four males and six females. By the time of the War Between the States one third of the population of Washington County was slave (2454). The Newberrys did not contribute much to that. They did have access to the holdings of the Collins and the Pettigrews if they needed help.

Abram J. Newberry passed from this life October 26, 1925. Several people are still around who remember him. Those who knew him best loved him most.

JS



JOSEPH NEWBERRY

Joseph Newberry, the seventh son of John and Joanna Swain Newberry, was an overseer at the Josiah Collins plantation. Eliza Anna Stuart Elder, born in New York City and recently widowed and saddened by the loss of her only child, became governess for the Collins children. These two were married 27 December, 1838,..... They raised Nine children including our direct line, Edward Stuart Elder Newberry. He fought for the Union during the Civil War and was disinherited by his father.

RSN

(Reprinted from WCGSJ. December 1995)



ABRAM AND DEBORAH FREEMAN NEWBERRY
Photographed After Sale of Sahara
Buried at Piney Grove Baptist Church

SBA

A STUDY OF SAHARA PLANTATION And the Newberry Family - 1799-1880

A study of the Newberry family, residents of Washington County., North Carolina, offers a study of a slave holding family of above-average status, over a relatively long period of time, dating from before 1790 to about 1920. The purpose of the following essay will be to ascertain an approximate status of the family as determined by factual recorded evidence and by related family traditions.

Little has survived of the families' activities before the middle 1800's. The earliest reference to status is found in the Federal Census Records, which list the number of slaves owned by families. As slaves were a measure of wealth, this information is pertinent to the theme. As determined by the records, the family of John Newberry I progresses from ownership of no slaves in 1790, to one in 1800, and then gradually to five slaves in 1820. One family member, Abraham Newberry, owned at least six slaves in 1840. While having five and six-slaves is not reminiscent of the larger plantations of the area (some had up to 327 slaves), it does conform to the greatest number of slaveholders. Out of 28,303 slaveholders and 288,548 slaves in Carolina in 1850 (average holding 10.1), 17,796 masters owned between two and ten slaves. While this does place the Newberry family in a median class, it fails to differentiate between their status as either "small farmer", or of "Planter". To help clarify the matter, it should be considered that often farmers who did not have extremely large slaveholdings might also have their sons work in the fields. This would have allowed John Newberry I and John Newberry II to work an even greater amount of land, as each had six and three sons, respectively. Also, it might explain how a plantation the size of Sahara (estimated at being anywhere from 500 to 1000 acres in size) might be worked by a smaller number of slaves.

The previous estimate of the size of Sahara Plantation offers another method of estimating the wealth of the Newberrys. In 1860,

The number of owners having acreages in excess of 100, represented only about 30% of the whole. Owners having an excess of 500 acres represented only 2% of the total landowners.

This places the John Newberry families in at least the upper 30% of the landholding class. Certainly the plantation itself conforms to this ideal set by larger plantations as it embraces many buildings, including a comfortable house, a kitchen, a stockbarn, slave houses, a hay and wine barn, a smoke house, a grain barn, a fishery, and of course, the all important "necessary houses."

By considering Ebenezer Pettigrew, a neighbor and business associate of the Newberry family, further light might be shed on the status of the Newberrys. As mentioned previously, it was not uncommon for sons of a farmer to work with the slaves in the fields, and in this light, it should be noted that,

Most farmers and some planters who owned only a small number of slaves acted as their own overseers,
one of these throughout a great part of his career....

Surely the several generations of Newberrys who lived at Sahara acted as their overseers. But, as Pettigrew was well noted as being an upper class planter, it still offers the possibility that John Newberry I and John Newberry II were not just small farmers. At this point, a definition of the classes will be presented to clarify the terms “small farmer” and “Planter”:

In order of social standing, the white population of 1783 contained the following classes: gentry, small farmer, and indentured servants. The gentry was the most influential, wealthy, and cultured and these three groups, being large planters, professional men and high public officials. They prided themselves in the titles of “Gentlemen”, and “Esquire” or “Planter”.

For whatever value it may be worth, there were at least several letters addressed to John Newberry II in the following manner - “John Newberry, Esquire”. While it may have been used as a matter of courtesy or for purposes of flattery, it may also indicate the social status and high esteem which was held for the family.

A final reference to the family’s social status is found in a newspaper clipping noting the death of Abram Newberry (son of John Newberry II) in 1925. While in general terms, the article states:

The deceased... had won a high place in the esteem of all who knew him. All his life he had been a resident of Washington County, living at the old family place in Skippersville Township. He came of a family long prominent in the life of the county and honored the name of his life.

While it would be impossible at present to draw a complete picture of plantation life at Sahara, it may be possible to allude to some of its features. The house at Sahara, while perhaps not the epitome of the white columned mansion in “Gone With The Wind”, was certainly comfortable throughout the year. Three chimneys contributed to its warmth in winter and a steady breeze and the shade of many aged oaks helped ease the heat of summer. Then, as now, Sahara commanded a beautiful view of the Albemarle Sound, a view comparable to any on the James River.

The plantation, like most of its era, was probably self-supporting as far as most food stuffs were concerned. Several crops were grown, including “...corn, cotton, peas, potatoes and fodder.” In addition, it is held by family tradition that rice was once a major crop. This tradition is backed by the memory and presence of a large irrigation canal which was dug by slave labor and which is remembered by family and local residents as “Newberry’s Ditch”. The fact that rice was grown in North Carolina is historically backed by the restored rice plantation maintained at Pettigrew State Park.

That the Newberrys were progressive farmers is indicated by their involvement in cultivating the Chinese Milberry tree, ...”or *morus multicaulis*, as it was often called, for the feeding of silk worms and the production of raw silk.” While this particular “craze” which involved North Carolina from the late 1820’s until 1842 was a failure, it indicated a desire for new farming methods, and for a few sellers of plants, it had meant considerable profits.

Another indication of progressiveness, and also an indication of a finer life style, was the raising of Scuppernong grapes on Sahara. These grapes had originated in Tyrell County and had led North Carolina "...to a position of leadership in the nation in the production of wine. Scuppernong wine was said to be as good as some French wines and was an item of daily consumption".

Wine production on Sahara is clearly remembered by living family members, and proof of its earlier presence on the plantation is offered by a letter written in 1840 which was written by a relative in Alabama requesting that John Newberry II send some choice Scuppernong Grape seed so that he might start his own vines. According to family tradition, the Newberry's wine was noted for its quality and several tales exist of children and grandchildren sneaking into the wine barn to sample its effects.

In addition to crops, it is known that various types of livestock were raised on the plantation, including cows, sheep, and hogs. Horses and mules were utilized for labor. In relation to the raising of hogs, another indication of fine living comes to light. The only family recipe encountered in research was one for curing smoked hams, which indicates that the family ate in fine style at least occasionally.

Perhaps a definite picture of the status of the Newberry family has not been presented by this brief essay, but it certainly alludes to the indication that the family enjoyed some degree of well-being. No attempt has been made to present the Newberrys as landed Aristocrats, which they were not. However, they did own a substantial amount of land and it may be concluded that they owned the slave labor to maintain it. Without question, the Newberrys owned at least a small plantation, and supervised it in a progressive manner. From surviving evidence, they seem to have taken advantage of all the natural resources at hand.

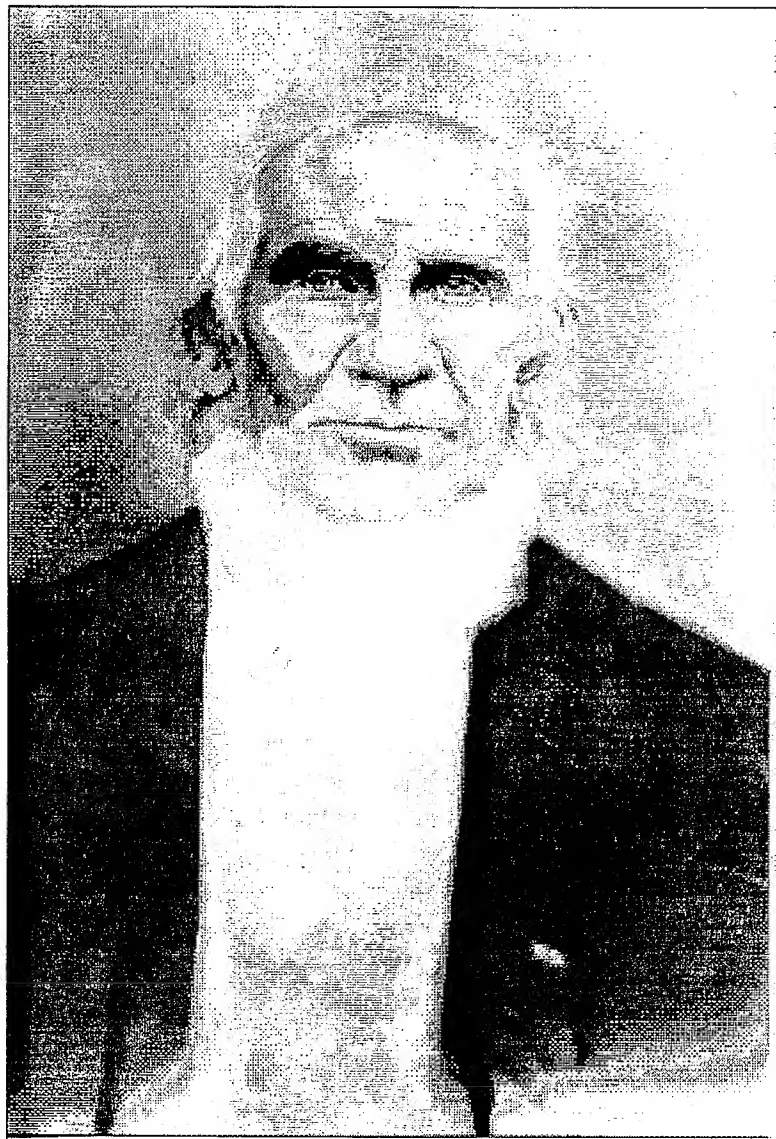
MNK



WILLIAM AND NANCY

"William T. Freeman was born in 1834. He was the son of James T. Freeman and Caroline Chesson. He married Nancy Newberry, the daughter of John Newberry and Christine Spruill. William and Nancy had Henry L. Freeman, who died at the age of three months. Josephine Freeman, who married George Ayers, Mary Jane Freeman, who married Charles J. Bateman, Debra Carolyn Freeman, who married William Hall, and Henry Lewis Freeman, who married Mattie A. Haislip."

The above is from the first chapter of Ruby B. Freeman's *The Original Freemans*. Her book was privately printed in the 1970's or '80's. We remember this sprightly lady from the television ads for her son's Toyota dealership. At a very advanced age, she would leap into the air and tell you why you just better buy one of her little boy's cars.

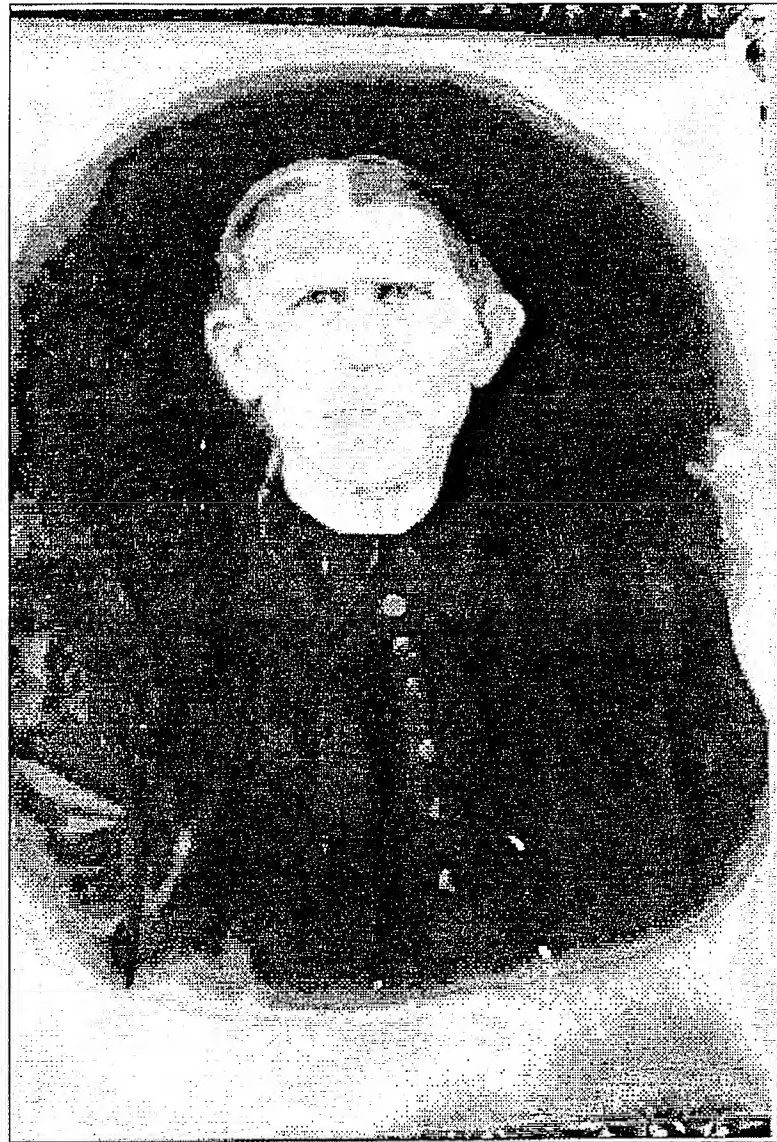


JOHN NEWBERRY II

Born Sahara Plantation 1805
Died Washington County 1880

Married (1) Christine Spruill
(2) Sarah H. McCabe

Father of:
Henry, John, Nancy, Joanna, Elizabeth, Sarah A., Mary, Abram, Joseph



JOANNA NEWBERRY

Daughter of John Newberry II

Born Sahara Plantation 1832

Died Washington County 1899

Married Jordan Mizell 1850

Mother of:

William J., Sarah Jane, George A., Georgeanna, John Durant, Mary Elizabeth, Margarete,
Martha Mizell

JOHN NEWBERRY I

The family of Newberry, of Sahara Plantation (Pea Ridge), Washington County, North Carolina, descended from John Newberry (I) from England. This follows family tradition. In researching this name I have only found one John Newberry who fits the age criterion. In "Emigrants from England" 1773-1776 by Gerald Fothergill, pg. 123, appears a John Newberry who shipped from the port of London, England on the 3rd to the 10th of January, 1775. He is listed as being from Devon, and shipping to New York as an indentured servant. His age is listed as 19 years (born 1756), and his occupation is listed as "husbandman" (farmer). There is probably no way to verify that this is the same John who emigrated to North Carolina, but in the national census records of 1800, John Newberry of Washington County, Skinnersville District, North Carolina, lists his age per form on records as being greater than 26 and less than 45. This conforms to the John Newberry from England, who was born in 1756, age approximately 44 in 1810.

John I moved to North Carolina at an undisclosed date. The first reference we have to him in North Carolina is his marriage bond to Joanna Swain, dated 1786. In 1794, a deed is recorded in Tyrell County, which divided to become Washington County in 1799. This deed is for a tract of land on Turkey Island, and it lists one boundary of the property as "...Degrees east, thirty six poles to his own line, thence along his own line...". This sentence insinuates that John I already owned land here prior to 1799. Unfortunately, some records at Plymouth Courthouse have been destroyed.

Turkey Island is a tract of land southeast of Pea Ridge, located in the middle of lower swamp land. It is not part of the Ridge Plantation or Sahara.

In 1801, John I bought property from the State, apparently unpaid taxes property. This land adjoined the Ridge Plantation and had as a boundary on one side, the Albemarle Sound. It seems to include some swamp land. This is the first reference we have of John I owning property on the Sound. A number of other land transactions are reported in the Courthouse, indicating John I prospered to some degree. In this same period of time, his family was growing, as evidenced by the Census records. John Newberry II, our direct relative, was born 9/12/1805. Also, the Census records indicate that John I is prospering, as he owns slave/s? by 1800. Little knowledge of John I survives from C.1800-1820, except for census records and land deeds. A will (unproven) dated 1818 has been found. This lists the disposal of his slaves and land to his children. Though the will is unproven, it seems to follow written matter in other land deeds, etc. which list lands received from John I by his sons. Note in the enclosed will that he provided for his childrens' education. While the will is dated 1818, the same year that John I remarried Mary (Polly) Phelps, he probably survived until the 1820's, as a white male, age greater than 45 is listed in the household of John Newberry II in 1820. (Note-this could be any other person. However, a white female in the same age bracket is also listed. The will of John I had granted John II the plantation "where I now reside".)

The burial place of John I has been lost. A Mr. Whitford Swain, deceased, remembered that on the development of Blair Shores, (Sahara Plantation subdivision 1960's), gravestone markers were uncovered. These markers were south of the house in an open field. Shortly after their discovery, they were laid against nearby trees and soon disappeared. This tradition

may be given further strength by a listing in the Parish Record of St. David's Church of the burial place of Joseph Doctor Newberry (John I's son), as being "soundside".

As to Sahara Plantation, it does not seem as if John I owned or called his lands by this name prior to his death. Also, the house at Sahara that was lived in by successions of Newberrys in later years is not known to be the house of John I. While John I evidently owned lands near or including the later Sahara plantation, it is not known exactly where he lived.

MNK



JOHN NEWBERRY II

John Newberry II, son of John I, was born September 12, 1805. His education, whatever its extent, was provided for by his father's will. He seems to have been involved at an early age in the running of the plantation's affairs, as indicated by dates on land deeds.

There are local and family traditions that John II possibly worked as an overseer for Ebenezer Pettigrew and Josiah Collins. There is strong evidence that Joseph Doctor (Doctrine) Newberry was at one time an overseer for Josiah Collins at Somerset Place. It is factual that John II had business dealings with Ebenezer Pettigrew. This is evidenced by receipts for labor for plowing and by letters involving the raising of mulberry buds (*morus multicanlis*), for the silkworm industry. Receipts for labor from these and other transactions should not necessarily infer that John II did the labor himself, but that the work was done by his slaves. However, note the article on Sahara Plantation. He could very possibly have worked in the fields with his slaves.

During the period of time 1828-1840, large numbers of local families made the move from Tyrell and Washington Counties to the newly opened territories of the South and Northwest United States. At least one of John II's brothers, James Swain Newberry, made this move (to the territory of Alabama). His letters provide interesting and valuable insight to the period. Note the references to scuppernong grapes, slaves, shipping of goods, etc. Also in the period 1828-1845, Ebenezer Pettigrew and Josiah Collins were buying up large tracts of land including a plantation called Sahara. This tract of land was part of a large tract sold to Edward Riggs in 1840 and 1842, and then sold to John Newberry II in January, 1849. This raises the question as to whether John Newberry owned this tract known as Sahara or was he merely residing there? Letters addressed to John Newberry, Esquire prior to 1849 are addressed to Sahara. This research is continuing. At any rate, he did purchase Sahara in 1849. These lands adjoined lands he already owned.

In the years prior to the Civil War, John Newberry II probably made his cash money much like his father before him. In addition to crops, corn, etc., tobacco was raised and perhaps more fodder was sold. Shingles and timber from the cypress swamps were major crops of the area. In addition, he was raising mulberry buds for the silk industry. Rice may have been a cash crop as it was grown in the area, and this is supported by a tradition that "Newberry Ditch" was used to flood his fields. Scuppernong wine may have been sold for cash and a fishery may have

provided goods for more than plantation use. Accounts survive of John II hiring his slaves out for labor, and also rents received from lands/houses he owned. Pork and perhaps other stock were raised for capital.

There is factual evidence that a “winmill” and warehouse stood in a field of John Newberry. At one time, this was owned by a brother, Abraham, and included only enough land for the mill and the warehouse. This mill was probably of the “post type” mill as displayed in Colonial Williamsburg. The windmill may have been purchased in 1849 as part of a large tract of land bought from Edward Riggs.

Little is known of how Sahara was affected by the Civil War. Evidence survives to indicate both armies visited Sahara. Also, tradition and evidence that John Newberry II was a staunch supporter of the South survives. In all probability some naval action involving Union and Confederate ironclads in the Albemarle Sound was visible from the shores of Sahara. No one in John’s immediate family fought in the war. However, a son of Joseph Doctor appears to have fought for the North and a son of James Swain fought for the South. Abram Newberry, son of John II, was too young to fight in the war, but a brother of his wife, Deborah Elizabeth Freeman was killed in the war. Another fought but returned home.

Of course, the war devastated the South. Large plantations like Bonarva owned by Eb Pettigrew, and Somerset, owned by Josiah Collins required the services of many hundreds of slaves. These faltered soon after the war. Sahara seems to have survived more or less intact.

John Newberry II continued to serve the community. At some time he was a coroner and tradition holds that he was a magistrate. In 1876 he was ordained into the ministry. John II died in 1880 and is buried in the churchyard at Piney Grove Church (originally interred in the family graveyard on Newberry Lane).

MNK



Ordered that the three companies adjacent to Kendricks Creek clear the said creek before September Court. Viz. John Cannady company, Calib Bembridge company, Thomas Stubbs company.

Tyrrell Court Minutes
June 1767



Ordered that John Stubbs have leave to keep an ordinary at the house belonging to Stephens Lee near Kendricks Creek.

Tyrrell Court Minutes
November 1770

"GOT IT MADE IN THE SHADE"
Sahara Plantation
circa 1910



William Newberry Knight. Far left, sitting on ground
Mary G. Newberry Knight. Left, standing
Deborah Freeman Newberry. Middle, seated
Sadie Newberry Carter. Second from right, seated on ground

Sahara dwelling house. Note inset porch and narrow windows. Out-building, possibly detached kitchen, believed as old as main house. Sahara burned early 1930's. Rebuilt on original foundations, utilizing original chimneys. Prior to the fire, ownership of Sahara had passed to William Briarwood Barber.



Hardy Davenport, Hezekiah G. Spruill, Joseph S. Norman, and Asa Snell became securities for the good behavior and keeping the peace of Hardy Davenport for six months, especially toward Asa Steely.

(Washington County Superior Court Minutes, September 1849.)

"ALIVE I COULD NOT COPE WITH SLANDEROUS TONGUES...."

Reading the John Newberry papers we are reminded of Edgar Lee Master's ghostly character who sadly muses the above. Frequently Mr Newberry's friends came to his defense against various allegations by neighbors. This prompts a great great grandson to wonder, "Do you reckon granddaddy was a little contentious?" We quote some of the defenses:

This may certify that John Newberry has never tried to keep ___? me from doing his brothers windmill by any thing that(?) he should or do it has been alledged there was on the part of Mr. Abraham Newberry as I understand that John Newberry was the whole & sole cause of my not doing his mill. I will say this much that Mr. John Newberry never incouraged nor disencouraged me in one respect other In the ____ 10th day of Decm 1837

John F. Phelps

(We remind our readers that we quote the originals as verbatim as possible. ed)

I hear that some malicious person or persons have endeavored to set at variance Mr. John Newberry & Mr. Peter Swain by telling Mr. Swain that Mr. Newberry is endeavoring to undermine Mr. Swain by unfavorable and evil stories of him to Mr. Collins and myself. Now I declare in the most positive terms that I have never heard Mr. John Newberry say harms word , or evil in any way or on any subject whatever of Mr. Swain, and that in all the conversations, I have had with Mr. Newberry, he never spoke of Mr. Peter Swain but in kind and favorable language. Given under my hand this ninth day of September 1839

E. Pettigrew

This may certify that John Newberry never to me nor to Mr Collins in my presence ever said one single word leading to an insinuation that any person in the neighborhood would steal or take a single twig or bud of the morus multicaulis which we had, and neither did we employ him to guard the trees, from any information of his in any way, but because we thought he would be a fit person, & worthy of trust to protect them from boats or canoes that might pass down the sound and take off a load to a distant place where no one would know and greatly to our loss.

Given under my hand this fifteenth day of September at Lake Phelps 1839

E. Pettigrew

Sep the 23th 1852

This may certify that I heard Mrs Frances Sleight say that she herself did not understand Newberry & and Biggs(Riggs?) to say what her daughter alledged

(Witness) James W(?) Clifton

Sh_?_lotte Collins

(Charlotte. ed.)

(For another "defencive" certification see WCGSJ, p19, April 1998)

MNK

ORDAINED
John Newberry II

When almost 71, John Newberry was ordained to the ministry at Free Chapel, which stood some four miles east of Sahara.

Know all men by these presents that we, the undersigned, by order of the Church of Christ at Free Chapel, Washington County, N.C. have duly ordained and set apart to the work of the Ministry John Newberry on this, the 30th day of July 1876. We hereby indorse him to perform all the functions of a Christian Minister as commanded in the Word of God.

Elders J.G. Gurany "Pastor"
 J.T. Walsh
 J.L. Burns
 H.S. Gurguns

We know little of John's ministerial activities during the remaining four years of his life. In parting with him now, we quote Verse 5 of the "Burial of the Dead", found with his Certificate of Ordination:

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust"
Calmly now the words we say,
Left behind, we wait in trust
For the resurrection-day.
Father , in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

MNK



FRASIERS OF OLD TYRRELL & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Jeremiah Frasier (Frazier) served for many years as a Justice of the Tyrrell Court, and was a member of the Colonial Assembly 1773-1775. With the advent of independence from Great Britain, he was elected senator to the North Carolina General Assembly—first in 1778, then for several terms in the '80s. He probably removed to Chowan County late in life, as his will was made there in 15 February, 1798. Devisees of the will were wife Ann, sons Richard and John (to whom he left one shilling each), son-in-law William Holmes, and daughters Mary Frasier, Martha Norman (wife of Nathan). Sarah Frasier, Adah Frasier, Elizabeth Frasier, Penelope Frasier, and Ann Swain.

Marriage Bonds issued to the sons reveal the following:
Richard Frasier to Mary Nichols. 15 September, 1786
Richard Frasier to Elizabeth Alexander. 4 August, 1798
John Frasier to Priscilla Nichols. 10 August, 1797

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN OLD TYRRELL
Selected Items From The Minutes Of The Court Of Pleas And Quarter Sessions: 1798

January Term 1798

- Justices present were Jeremiah Frasier, John Tarkinton, Henry Norman
- Grand Jurors: John Goelet, Jesse Hatfield, Thomas Stubbs, Junr., Thomas Harrison, Nathan Norman, Hezekiah Norman, James Dillon, Benjamin Spruill, John Alexander, John Brickhouse, James Freeman, Willis Draper, Hezekiah Dukes(?).
- Ordered that Edward Bird be appointed guardian to Lois Cutheral. Robert Cushing, Esq., and Martin R. Bird securities.
- James Cahoon, administrator of James Cahoon returns inventory of the said deceased.
- Ordered that Martin R. Byrd be appointed guardian to the orphans of Thomas Lee, to wit Thomas Lee, Stevens Lee & Ann Lee. Edward Byrd, John Guither, & Samuel Chesson securities.
- Deed of sale of a lot in the town of Plymouth from Stephen Venters to Willis Draper was proved.....by the oath Edmund Blount.
- A deed.....from Daniel Davenport and John Frasier & their wives Sarah Davenport and Pricilla Frasier to Henry Starr was proved by oath of Joseph Phelps, Esq. and Thomas Trotter.
- Ordered that the following allowances be made to the following persons for keeping public ferry from January Term 1797 till January Term 1798.

Robert Wynne, Esquire	£ 12-15-	pd
Isaac Davenport	£ 21-3-	
Ann Wynne	£ 5-12-	pd
James Swain	£ 11-8-	pd
- Ordered that Joseph Everett have leave of administration on the Estate of Penelope Read. Securities Willis Draper, Jesse Everett
["I have searched this book through for the appointment of Arthur Rhodes as guardian to William Hardison and also in prior docket as far back as January Term 1791 an cannot find it." -C. Spruill]

April Term

- Present the worshipful John Tarkenton, Robert Wynne, Henry Norman
- Bond of John Foster for the support of a bastard child begotten on the body of Mary Ann Cutheral
- Ordered that Daniel Davenport, Abraham Jennett, Uriah Phelps, John Spruill, Senr, Charles Spruill, Zezeniah Davis, Andrew Oliver, Andrew Bateman, King Spruill, Joseph Oliver, Joseph Phelps, Esq.. and Jeremiah Phelps be appointed a jury to lay of a road from Joshua Learys to the road called Andrew Batemans Road and make returns to the next court.

- Ordered that the Parish Tax for the year 1797 be six pence on each one hundred acres of land & one shilling six pence on each poll in this county.
- Ordered that Henry Norman, Charles Spruill, Esquires, & Samuel Chesson, or any two of them are to(?) audit & to settle the Accounts between the Estate of Joanna Davenport and the administrators and make returns to next court.

July Term

- Present the worshipful Joseph Phelps, Henry Norman, John Clayton
- Ordered that William White have leave of administration on the Estate of James Garrett and give bond.....in the sum of £ 800. Col. Edmund Blount, John Stubbs securities.
- Deed of sale of two lots in the Town of Plymouth from Selvenus ? to Robert Armistead was proved by oath of Martin R. Byrd, Esq.
- The Last Will and Testament of Edward Walker.....was proved by oath of David Griffin.
- A Bill of Sale for a Negro boy named Adam from Thomas Blount to Thomas Fagan.....proved by oath of Samuel Young.
- The Last Will and Testament of Col. John Warrington was introduced..... proved by oath of John Warrington.
- Ordered that Edmund Blount, Esquire, be appointed High Sheriff for the insuing year and give bond and security in the sum of £2000. Benjamin Spruill and Samuel Chesson securities.
- Ordered that Nathan Hooker be appointed coroner.....Bond £200. Henry Norman and Abner Alexander, Esquires, securities.
- Ordered that Richard Fagan be appointed Constable in his own district.....Bond £250. Securities Thomas Fagan, Daniel Everett.
- Personall appeared in open court Ann Hassell and qualified Executrix to the Last Will & Testament of Edward Hassell.
- Samuel Spruill and Paul Thoroughgood qualified as Justices of the Peace.
- Ordered that Benjamin Wynne be allowed £8-1-6 for keeping a public ferry from April Term 1797 till April Term 1798.
- Henry Norman returns in open court the bond of James Blount for the support and maintenance of a bastard child begotten on the body of Mary Bateman.
- Ordered that Levi Blount & William Fagan Esquires and William Harrison be appointed to divide the Estate jointly left by Stevens Lee's will between his two daughters Elizabeth and Mary Lee.
- Ordered that John Foster have leave to keep an ordinary at his own house. Bond of £250. Securities Fredrick Davenport, William Howell
- Ordered that Richard Downing be appointed guardian to Samuel Mackey orphan of William Mackey. Bond and security in the sum of £200.

- Ordered that Thomas Walker be appointed guardian to Lovey Walker orphan of Thomas Walker. Richard Downing, James Long securities.
- Ordered that Hezekiah Spruill orphan of William Spruill be bound to Charles Spruill, Esquire, til he arrive to lawful age. The said master to learn the said apprentice to read, right, and cypher as far as the rule of three.
- Ordered that Fredrick Spruill.....(this indenture is identical to the above. ed)
- Ordered that Rachel Rowe widow of Levi Rowe have leave of administration on the Estate. John Norman, Jesse Hatfield, securities.
- Ordered that Execution issue against Darius Spruill (to collect) the sum of 25 pounds the sum allowed Keziah Snell for the maintenance of a Bastard child begotten upon the body of the said Keziah Snell by the said Darius Spruill.
- Ordered that Daniel Davenport, Esq., Asa Phelps, and Joseph Oliver be appointed Patrolers in Asa Phelps district.

October Term

- Henry Norman, John Tarkenton, John Leary, Esqs Present
- Ordered that Thomas Walker be appointed overseer of the road from the White Marsh Landing to the auld main road near where Friley Jones formerly lived.
- Ordered that Penelope Earl have leave of administration on the Estate of William Earl. Bond £1000. Securities Daniel Leggett, Stephen Venters, Willis Draper.
- The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Harrison was.....proved by the oath of Richard Fagan.
- Elizabeth Harrison qualified as executrix
- Ordered that William Kineon(?) an orphan boy, be bound to Samuel Carswell till he arrives to lawful age to learn the art and mystery of a cordwinder and the said master is to learn said apprentice to read, wright, and cypher as far as the rule of three.
- The division of the the stock of cattle belonging between the heirs of Col. Stevens Lee which said stock ranged(?) in the County of Martin in the Piney Woods is returned in open court by John Roulhac, Esq.
- Ordered that Christopher Duckett be appointed guardian to Thomas Currell Jones and Friley Jones orphans of Friley Jones for the purpose of ___?___ for them in the division of lands of the deceased.
- Ordered that Thomas Hagert orphan of James Hagert be bound to Thomas Trotter till he arrives to lawful age...
- Ordered that Benjamin Long be appointed patroler in the room and district of Enoch Leary.
- Joannah Chapman. administrator of Estate of Joseph Chapman, returned inventory of the estate.
- Ordered that Capt. Henry Starr have leave to keep an ordinary at his own house. Bond £250.

- Ordered that Isaac Norman have leave of administration on estate of Joseph Norman. Miles Spruill, Jeremiah Phelps securities.
- Ordered that Nathan Spencer be appointed patroler in the room of William Liverman.
- Ordered that Moses Holaway be allowed eleven pounds for the support and clothing of Peggy Heath, orphan of Jacobus Heath for twelve months last past.
- Evan Skinner to keep ordinary at his own home. Richard Frasier, John Norman securities.
- Ordered that Evan Skinner be appointed Constable in the room and district of John Leary. Richard Frasier, John Norman, securities
- Ordered that William Megound have leave to keep an ordinary at his own house. £250. John Clayton, Esq., Thomas Liverman securities.

This is the sixth year that we have had a “Two Hundred Years Ago” article. In selecting items for our Journal, from the myriad of cases recorded in the Minutes, we have concentrated on those with strong genealogical and local history import. With each year’s transcriptions, the oft-repeated warning to the genealogist seems even more valid: “Ignore the Court Minutes at your peril!”

EAN



A FAMILY DIVIDED

The sons of Joseph and Eliza (Elder) Newberry were Edward Stuart Elder, Demetrius Whitney, and George Collins Newberry. Edward fought for the North in the Civil War, and the other two brothers were on the Confederate side.

Demetrius was born in Washington County and was by occupation a farmer prior to enlistment in Chowan County at age 19, February 10, 1862 “for the war.” Present or accounted for through December 1864. Paroled at Greensboro April 28, 1865, with the remark “absent wounded at Town Creek, NC.”

George C. Newberry enlisted in Henrico County, Virginia September 1, 1862 “for the war.” Discharged October 15, 1863, he reenlisted in Brunswick County April 1, 1864, and was paroled at Greensboro April 25, 1865.

Edward was a spy for the North with the New Jersey Volunteers and was wounded several times—once so severely his arm hung useless at his side the rest of his life. His father disinherited him in his will, but intervention by Edward’s son, Denwood, at the court in North Carolina, declaring the father just forgot about his absent son, made it possible for him to receive an inheritance.

RSN

(Reprinted from WCGSJ. April 1996.)

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

At a meeting of the Board of Superintendents on Common Schools for said County, at the Court-house in Plymouth, on the 28th April 1841—
Present,

JOHN D. BENNETT, CHAIRMAN,
AARON HARRISON,
JOSIAH COLLINS,
HENRY DOWNING,
SAMUEL NEWBURY, and
JOSEPH RAMSEY, Esquires,

On motion, Ordered, that the School Districts be, and they are hereby, layed off as follows:—

DISTRICT NO. 1. Begins at the Indian Swamp at Tyrrell County line, running thence westwardly so as to leave all the inhabitants to the left, keeping the main road, 65 poles northward from Free Chapel, thence continuing a westwardly course 47 poles to the westward of Lemuel Swain's, thence northward crossing the main road that leads from the fork below Skinnersville, by way of the sound, to Free Chapel; 34 poles westward from William Davenport's, thence to the sound, thence the various courses of the sound to Bull Point, thence along the county line to the first station, includes all the inhabitants westwardly from William Davenport's on the sound-side-road—the inhabitants of the Ridges and Bulls bay Islands.

NO. 2. Begins at the same place of No. 1, running the same line westwardly to the main road leading from Free Chapel towards the sound, thence along the main road southwardly to the fork at Free Chapel, thence southwardly across the country to the main road leading by R. B. Davis' towards Plymouth, 23 poles to the westward of Asa Anshy's, thence same course to the fork at Concord, thence along the road to the River Bridge, thence eastwardly the various of the river to the mouth of Collins' canal, thence northwardly along the line of Tyrrell to the first station.

NO. 3. Begins at the mouth of Collins' canal at the river, running thence the various courses of the river as far as it extends, thence continuing a westwardly course, so as to pass 84 poles northwardly from Aaron Davenport's, thence southwardly to the Lake Shore, thence eastwardly along the north shore of the lake, to the county line at the mouth of Collins' canal at the lake, thence northwardly along the canal to the first station.

NO. 4. Begins on the main road to the sound side, 65 poles northwardly from the Free Chapel, thence southwardly across the country to the main road leading by R. B. Davis', 23 poles to the westward of Asa Anshy's, thence same course to the fork at Concord, thence along the road to Phelps' Bridge, thence up the river to its source, thence westwardly so as to pass 84 poles northwardly from Aaron Davenport's, thence northwardly to pass 46 poles to the eastward of the house on Sassafras Ridge, and to the main road leading from Columbia to Plymouth, 47 poles to the westward of John Woodley's to the first line of No. 1, thence eastwardly down the line of No. 1, to the first station.

NO. 5. Begins on the Plymouth road to the westward of John Woodley's, thence southwardly to the main Dismal, thence westwardly along the Dismal parallel to the main road leading to Plymouth, thence northwardly crossing said road, 150 poles to the eastward of Andrew Chesson's to Albemarle Sound, thence eastwardly down the sound to a point eastward of Joshua S. Swift's and westward of Hardy Norman's, thence southwardly to the first station.

NO. 6. Begins at a point on Albemarle sound, 150 poles eastwardly of a direct course from Andrew Chesson's to the sound, thence southwardly 150 poles east of Andrew Chesson's to the Dismal, thence south and westwardly binding on the Dismal to a point, 125 poles eastwardly from Hezekiah Chesson's, thence northwardly to the main road leading to Plymouth, crossing said road at the turn at the old Bird Place, thence along the road until it passes Wiggins Blount's, thence a straight course across the country and across Kendrick's Creek to the road leading from the ferry to Plymouth, 235 poles to the westward of Ormand Rispass', thence to the sound, thence down the sound to the first station.

NO. 7. Begins on Albemarle sound, at a point 235 poles westwardly of a direct course from Ormand Rispass' house, thence southwardly to a point on the road from the ferry to Plymouth, 235 poles from said house, thence southwardly a straight course across the country and across Kendrick's creek to the old Plymouth road at Wiggins Blount's, thence southwardly along the road to the turn at the Bird Place, thence southwardly to a point, 125 poles eastwardly from Hezekiah Chesson's, thence westwardly, including Chesson's settlement along the Dismal, 3 miles thence northwardly to the old Plymouth road, crossing said road 65 poles west of the Widow John Everett's, thence across the country to the main road leading from the ferry to Plymouth, crossing said road 220 poles to the eastward of the Widow Thomas Walker's, thence to a point on Albemarle sound one mile westward from John G. Williams', thence down the sound to the first station.

NO. 8. Begins on the sound at a point one mile westward from John Williams', thence southwardly to the Plymouth road leading by way of the ferry, 220 poles eastward of the Widow Thomas Walker's, thence southwardly across the country to the old Plymouth road to a point 65 poles to the westward of the Widow John Everett's, thence southwardly to the Dismal, thence westwardly along the Dismal $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, thence northwardly to a point on the old Plymouth road, 42 poles to the westward of Edmund Blount's, thence across the country to the road leading from the ferry to Plymouth, crossing said road 133 poles to the eastward of Dr. William A. Armistead's, thence to the Stewart Fishery, on Roanoke river, thence down the river and sound to the first station.

NO. 9. Begins at the Stewart Fishery on Roanoke river, thence southwardly to a point on the road leading from the Ferry to Plymouth, 123 poles to the eastward of Dr. Wm. A. Armistead's, thence southwardly to a point on the old Plymouth road, 42 poles to the Westward of Edmund Blount's, thence southwardly to the Dismal to the eastward of the Widow Joseph Garrett's, thence southwestwardly along the Dismal 3½ miles, thence northwardly to a point on the main road that leads by Morattock Bridge towards Washington, 64 poles from the fork leading to Long Acre, Plymouth &c., thence across the Country and across the main road to a point on the main road, 25 poles eastward from Mrs. Bozman's, thence to Welche's creek, thence down the creek and river to the first station.

NO. 10. Begins at the mouth of Little mill creek at Welche's creek, thence southeastwardly to a point on the main road, 25 poles to eastward of the Widow Bozman's, thence across the country southwardly to a point on the main road leading by Morattock Bridge towards Washington, 64 poles northward from the forks of the roads that lead to Long Acre, Plymouth &c., thence southwardly to the Dismal, thence southwestwardly 2 miles along the Dismal, thence northwardly to the road leading from Plymouth to Long Acre, crossing said road eastwardly from the Widow Marina Everett's, thence continuing across the county to a point on the main road, that leads towards Washington by Long Ridge, 222 poles southward of the road that leads to Cornell's Mill's, thence to Welche's creek, thence down the creek to the first station.

NO. 11. Begins on Welcho's creek at a point 222 poles above Cornell's Mills, thence eastwardly to the main road leading to Washington, crossing said road at a point, 222 poles southwardly from the road that leads to Cornell's Mills, thence to the middle of the east Dismal, thence up the centre of the Dismal southwardly to the Beaufort line, thence along the Beaufort line to Welche's creek, thence down the creek to the first station.

NO. 12. Begins at the Beaufort County line on Long Acre, and extends to a point on the main road 20 poles to the eastward of Marina Everett's, including all the inhabitants adjacent to said road and between both Dismals.

A COPY.

TEST, T. E. PENDER, Clerk.

(Norman-Snell Private Collection)



SOME MARRIAGES

Married in Camden County on the 22d ult., the Rev. Simeon Norman, of the Methodist Church, to Miss Elizabeth C. Old, daughter of Hollowell Old, Esq.

The Raleigh Star, 12 February 1829

(Simeon Norman, of Scuppernong, was son of Simeon and great great grandson of Henry Norman who settled in Perquimans Precinct in 1685. He was nephew to the celebrated Methodist circuit rider, Jeremiah Norman. ed.)

Married in Washington County on the 23d ult., Mr Joseph W. Tarkington of Tyrrell County, to Miss Mourning Phelps of the former county.

The Raleigh Star, 28 May, 1829

Married in Tyrrell County on the 10th inst. By Daniel N. Bateman, Esq., Mr. William Spruill to Miss Amelia M' Cray.

The Raleigh Star, 26 November, 1829



As courage and intelligence are the two qualities best worth a good man's cultivation, so it is the first part of intelligence to recognize our precarious estate in life, and the first part of courage to be not at all abashed before the fact.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

ABSALOM DAVENPORT ESTATE

An Account of Sale of the perishable estate of Absalom Davenport deceased
Sold by his Administrator Franklin Snell on the 20th day of December 1843

(The following items, selected from four legal-size pages, are chosen to show the
variety of the "perishable Estate". ed.)

5 Barrels of corn \$1.02	to	Asa Snell	5.10
1 Brass clock		F. F. Fagan	7.25
1 Lot books		Eli Spruill	1.60
1 Lot books		ditto	.35
1 gun		Widow	8.25
1 Looking glass		ditto	.65
1 Bed		ditto	7.00
1 Bed		ditto	1.00
1 Saddle		Eli Spruill	8.05
1 Lot of barrels		ditto	.50
2 Fat hogs		William Arnold	12.01
5 Sheep second choice		Melvin Bateman	7.20
1 Red cow		J.J. Lindsey	6.60
1 Black and white hieffer		ditto	4.05
2 Hogs first choice		Widow	5.50
1 Red steer		Charles Bateman	5.30
1 Old horse		J.P. Patrick	5.40
1 Horse		Widow	10.50
1 Borush (barouche) and harnis		Widow	25.00
1 Old double gig and harnis		William D. Davenport	2.00
2 Reap hooks		Widow	.25
1 Brandy still		ditto	6.00
4 Sheepskin		ditto	.55
1 Pair of flat irons			.21
1 Red steer		S.H. McRea	2.20
20 gals Brandy .73 ½		Melvin Bateman	14.70
1 Draw knife and Iron wedge		Widow	.27

(Norman-Snell Papers. Private Collection.)

Hester Ann Davenport is the widow noted in the list of purchasers. The sales receipts totaled \$343.26.



John Keats (1795-1821) commenting upon the Irish, "In times of great joy, you are comforted by the fact that great tragedy lurks around the corner."

(Quoted on PBS December 30, 1997.)

WOLVES & ANCESTORS

In the late 1600's our ancestors began to trickle across Albemarle Sound to the South Shore, long avoided as "the haunt of beasts." Within a century they swept the land of most of the chief "vermin"—the wolves and panthers.

A study of the court and Assembly records of colonial times and the early years of statehood reveals sporadic accounts of payment of bounties for the killing of these predators, and the legislation authorizing such payments. We know that the wolf slayer was required to produce the "scalp with both ears," and to make oath before a magistrate that the beast was killed within the county in which the bounty claim was made.

The early settlers were paid five shillings for the wolf killed by gun and 10 shillings for those taken by "snare." In 1785 the Assembly decreed that bounty for a wolf would "not exceed twenty shillings" (one pound). Tyrrell was paying that amount by 1786. Method of killing seems to have become inconsequential.

To put the early five shilling bounty into perspective, a person having collected that sum could have called at a local ordinary and treated himself to a supper (one shilling) and a bottle of wine (four shillings). The Ordinary rates, like the Bounty, were set by the County Court.

Logically, the earliest-settled areas seem to have been rid of wolves soonest. In the will of Isaac Alexander (one of three of that name who made wills within a three-year period) dated 1777, he begins a property description "at the place where Oliver killed a wolf." We think that Isaac lived on the west side of the Scuppernong River in one of the older Tyrrell settlements. We may probably assume that wolves were now so rare in the neighborhood that the killing of a wolf was a newsworthy event that would be well remembered by the devisees of the will.

Quite different was the case of John Garrett, who collected a two-scalp bounty in 1787. He lived on "Garrett's Island" southeast of the new town of Plymouth. His Plantation bordered upon the "Dismal," a region of then-unbroken wilderness stretching eastward nearly ten miles to the homesteads at "Head of the Newland" near Lake Phelps. The Dismal afforded sanctuary to which marauding wolves could retire after raids on the sheep, hogs, calves, colts, and other livestock of the nearby farms.

While the South Shore was still part of Chowan County, that court recorded the payment of wolf bounties to such prominent Tyrrell surnames as Snell, Ward, Long, Blount, Phelps, Smith, and Lewis. Tyrrell, whose County Court Minutes date back to 1735, did not record bounty payments in its Minutes until 1768, and then but sporadically. We list below the names of those receiving payment, the year, and the number of wolves accounted for.

Jeremiah Norman	1768	2 scalps
Edmund Smithwick	1768	7
John Allcock	1768	2
John Davenport	1768	1
Edward Phelps	1766	1
John Garrett	1787	2
John Leary	1787	1
Enoch Leary	1787	1

John Leary	1789	1
John Leary	1791	1
Cornelius Leary	1791	1

Of the above, Jeremiah Norman's will had been probated in 1767, so payment was probably made to the estate. Edmund Smithwick, "son of Edward," was of that portion of Tyrrell that would become Martin County in 1774. John Garrett was, almost surely, the same John Garrett involved in the "Tory Conspiracy" of the Revolution. Cornelius Leary, most likely, was a descendant of the Cornelius living a century earlier on Harvey's Neck, Perquimans Precinct.

EAN



"WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?"

As we read the old records in search of our own ancestors, we often unearth surnames that ring oddly upon our 20th Century ears. We introduce here some of the old settlers whose names tickle our fancy. All of these families seem to have long-since disappeared from the Albemarle.....or changed their names.

Catchmaid (also "Ketchmaid"), George. Of record as early as 1698. An Edward Catchmaid died C. 1704.

Cecow, Mary. In March 1704, Mary deposed that she had been "sorely beat and abused by Argyle Simmons".

Hogg, James & wife Anne. In 1698 they sold land on Indian Creek and Yeopim River.

Pricklove, Samuel. One of our earliest settlers, he bought land before 1661 from Kilcacenon, King of the Yeopim. Samuel was later sentenced to have both ears cut off, probably for a political offense. His will was proved in 1703.

Ramsbottam, Miles. He was a Deputy Marshal in 1706.

*(Colonial Records of North Carolina. Published by the State of North Carolina.
Higher-Court Records. NC Department of Archives & History.
History of Perquimans County. Mrs. Watson Winslow.)*



"Professor W.S. Dunston, a Washington County boy, who has been holding the position of Principal of the Washington Graded School for the past two years, has gone to Chicago, where he has accepted a position on the *Chicago Herald*."

The Roanoke Beacon, 17 June, 1892.

THE "RAM" NOT OUR FIRST "ALBEMARLE"

On August 9, 1807 Robert Fulton's (1765-1815) first successful steamboat made its trial runs on the Hudson River. A few days later it made its historic 150 mile voyage from New York to Albany, and in the fall began scheduled commercial trips. The glorious age of steam transportation had dawned.

With remarkable speed the steamboat proliferated, and soon was a common craft upon the Northern rivers and bays. In 1815, the year of Fulton's death, and 8 years after he launched his successful craft upon the Hudson, steamboats began sailing from Norfolk Harbor on runs to Petersburg and Richmond, Washington City and Baltimore. It was inevitable that steam would soon be upon the Carolina sounds and rivers.

In February 1818, the "Steam-Boat Company" met at Hornblow's Tavern in Edenton to elect a President and Directors and to transact other business. Joseph B. Skinner was chosen President. Among the Directors was Captain Joel Thorp of Plymouth. It was decided that one of the Directors be dispatched immediately to New York to contract for the building of "the boat". This is the first veiled mention of what would come to be known as the "Albemarle".

In the meantime, Plymouth wasn't without steam. In August 1818 it was reported that "the *Seahorse* has commenced running thrice a week between Plymouth and Elizabeth City."

The navigation companies found it necessary to provide overland transport from one port to another and from port to major inland towns. So, stage lines, owned by the steamboat concerns, sprang up. "Public transportation" from the Carolina ports was much more available and efficient in the early years of the 19th Century than in the waning years of the 20th. In November 1818 stages were "begun from Plymouth to Raleigh twice a week. Leave (both) Monday and Friday morning, meet at Tarborough same evening. Return next day. Unites with the steam ferry from Plymouth to Edenton." By early 1819 stages were running from Plymouth to New Bern "in conjunction with the Edenton-Plymouth ferry."

After a stormy passage that witnessed the demise of several vessels under sail, the *Albemarle* safely berthed in Carolina. On December 30, 1818, the Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald reported: "The Steam-Boat *Albemarle*, Crocker, (its master) from New York, bound to Edenton, N.C. got in at Currituck Inlet, on Friday last, without meeting with any accident from stormy weather. She was only 36 hours under way.the sloop *Reverie*, Small, laden with a cargo of salt and northern produce, from Richmond bound to Washington, N.C., has been cast away upon Currituck Bar—crew saved, vessel bilged and cargo lost.-A schooner from North Carolina, laden with naval stores and cotton, bound to New-York, was also cast away on Thursday night last, about 9 miles north of Currituck Bar-and a northern sloop laden with onions, potatoes, cheese, &c. (supposed to have been bound into the Chesapeake, but had been forced to the southward of the Capes in a snow storm Wednesday last) was ashore off Back Bay, a small distance north of Knott's Island." Capt. Crocker and the Company must have been very proud of the new steam vessel that safely crossed the Bar after weathering a storm that claimed several ships under sail.

Further news articles reveal that the battered *Albemarle* wasn't quite home free. Safe inside the Bar, she couldn't negotiate the shallow waters of Currituck Sound to the deep-water

Albemarle Sound. She put to sea again, entered Pamlico Sound at Ocracoke Inlet, and made an uneventful passage of 14 hours to Edenton.

By January 29, 1819, the Line was advertising its Norfolk-Raleigh route: From Norfolk, overland by stage to Elizabeth City, there to embark on the *Albemarle* for Williamston, touching on the way Edenton and Plymouth. At Williamston passengers could take stage to Tarborough, from which point stages were available direct to Fayetteville or to Fayetteville via Raleigh. About that time fares (boat-stage) were: Norfolk to Elizabeth City \$5.00, to Edenton \$9.00, to Tarborough \$12.00.

For reasons not revealed in the press, the *Albemarle* was advertised for sale in January 1822. From the ad we know her dimensions to have been 60 feet long with a beam of 20 feet. She drew four feet of water, and developed 20 horse power.

By mid-1822 she was running from Norfolk to Suffolk and Smithfield, Virginia, and was used as an excursion boat to such places as the "Camp Meeting" in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. She subsequently ran to Washington City and Northern ports.

The *Albemarle* burned to the water line at the Arch Street Wharf in Philadelphia in May, 1825. Thus died that boat that had spent her first two years on the inland waters of northeastern North Carolina 45 years before the famous iron-clad of the same name swept the Roanoke River clean of the Yankee presence in April, 1864.

This article was prepared from articles, contemporary to the events, published in the *Norfolk Gazette*, the *American Beacon*, and the *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald*. These news stories were compiled by Jno. C. Emmerson, Jr., in his most informative *The Steamboat Comes to Norfolk Harbor, And the Log of the First Ten Years*.

EAN



SOME JURORS FOR 1772

Grand jurors for to attend our Supperior Court at Edenton 1772

John Everitt
Nehemiah Norman
Benjamin Spruill

Pettit Jurors for Superior Court

Thomas Hardison
Nathanil Everitt, Jun.
Luke Mizell

(Minutes. Tyrrell County Court. November 1771.)

QUAKERS

Quakers recently celebrated three hundred years of worship in North Carolina. The first meeting of the sect in the Albemarle at Belvidere, Perquimans Precinct, was in 1697 at the home of Francis Nicholson. The Quaker presence in North Carolina was first noted in 1655, with the arrival of the Henry Phillips family.

The Society of Friends was formed in England in the middle of the 17th Century by George Fox. Governor (1694-1696) John Archdale was a Quaker, and established a safe haven for Quakers fleeing persecution in New England. The Piney Woods Friends Meeting House in Belvidere was established in 1723, and is still in use.

Quakers were described by Virginia's Governor Berkeley as "an unreasonable and turbulent sort of people." They did have disorderly characteristics; they seemed to lack respect for the magistrates, they burst into churches, disturbed public worship, and railed at ministers and congregations. Quakers of the 17th Century were very unlike modern Quakers.

Quakers were bitterly opposed to paying the Vestry Tax, imposed by the government to aid the Church of England in the establishment of Anglican churches.

A great number of the early settlers of eastern North Carolina were Quakers. Those who came to the South Shore of Albemarle Sound seem to have left their religion behind. There are no records of Quaker meetings in Tyrrell or Washington Counties.

A number of famous Americans were influenced, directly or indirectly, by the Quakers. The mothers of Abraham Lincoln and Richard Nixon were of that Society. The vivacious Dolly Madison, a native North Carolinian, was a Quaker in her youth, but left the Society upon marrying James Madison who became our fourth president.

Evidence of Quaker influence in North Carolina can be found primarily in education. Historically black universities Winston Salem State and Durham's North Carolina A&T, began as Friends schools for freed slaves. Duke University was a joint effort by Quakers and Methodists. Greensboro's Guilford College maintains its ties to the Society of Friends. Friends schools have also influenced the State Department of Public Instruction.

VLE



Deep Creek, Little Bridge,
Turkey Island, Pea Ridge.

Old rhyme tracing one's progress from the Scuppernong Church area westward to vicinity of the present-day Albemarle Bridge. Recalled by Clyde Smithson, Alexandria, VA.

**“A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE...”
HOWEVERSO-MUCH DIVIDED**

Over the years, writers have commented—some aghast, some with amusement—on the not-uncommon practice in the pre-war South of dividing a single slave among two or more heirs. We have been quite busy running hither and yon assuring compassionate folks that we didn’t physically chop asunder that part of our estates. Usually in such cases, the property was sold, and the sales proceeds divided among the heirs. In the following case, the sales procedure wasn’t followed.

When Henry Norman of Scuppernong died intestate circa 1746, he was survived by his “relict” Mary and eleven children. Joseph Spruill (Mary’s brother), Stevens Lee, and Joshua Turner were appointed to divide the estate.

Working from the nine page inventory of such diverse items as seven horses, 40 dung hill “fouls” (no pun intended?), 15 dozen and three candles, 14 books, and “one Negro wench Rose”, these gentlemen presented the division on July 25, 1747.

To the “Relict of Mr. Henry Norman” was allotted “1 third of a Negro wench Rose.” The children, Elizabeth, Samuel, Mary, Joseph, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Zilpha, John, Stephen, Jemima, and Elijah, each received “1 Eleaventh part of Two thirds of a Negro wench Rose.”

We wonder if Rose achieved a record by her 12-way division? Does she deserve to be in a Guinness Book of Records? Her “white family” would applaud her fame, and share, vicariously, in it.

EAN

(Original Inventory & Division. NC Archives & History.)



“Let knowledge grow from more to more
And thus be human life enriched”

Slogan
Encyclopedia Britannica

Tarkinton vs. Myers, Adm. “Zebulon Tarkinton died in the year 1834”
Washington County Superior Court Minutes, March 1850

“The tread of the master’s foot is worth a load of manure.”

Inglis Fletcher (1879-1969)
“Men of Albemarle” pub. 1942

ROANOKE MALE INSTITUTE

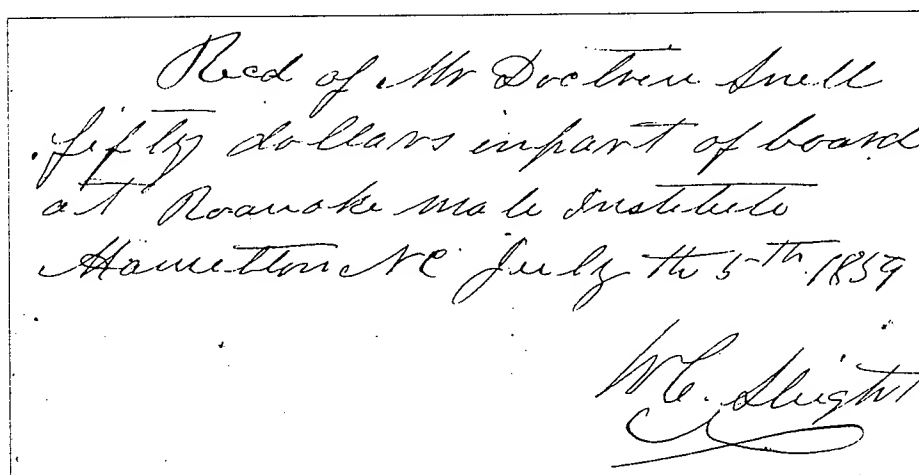
Roanoke Male Collegiate Institute advertised in the Williamston *Mercury* July 20, 1859. Tuition was \$70.00 for a five-month term, plus fees for certain courses of study.

Swain and DeFord were proprietors. Correspondence could be addressed to Messrs. Sheperd Spruill, Thomas Jones, W.K. Broun, W.R. Hyman, R.C. Weathersbee, or B. Bennett.

The Institute was in Hamilton, Martin County, N.C. The Boarding Department was under the direction of William C. Sleight, Esq., and lady.

BMR

Student at the Institute



Recd of Mr Doctrine Snell
fifty dollars in part of board
at Roanoke male institute
Hamilton NC July 5th 1859
W.C. Sleight

Doctrine Snell of eastern Skinnersville District, Washington County, was 22 years old when he received this receipt. Shortly thereafter he was licensed to teach in his home county. He was apparently teaching on Roanoke Island shortly before enlisting, age 25, in Co. H., 17th Regiment, N.C.T. He died in a Confederate hospital in Richmond, August 16, 1862, of "febris typhoides".

EAN

(Snell-Norman Papers, Private Collection)



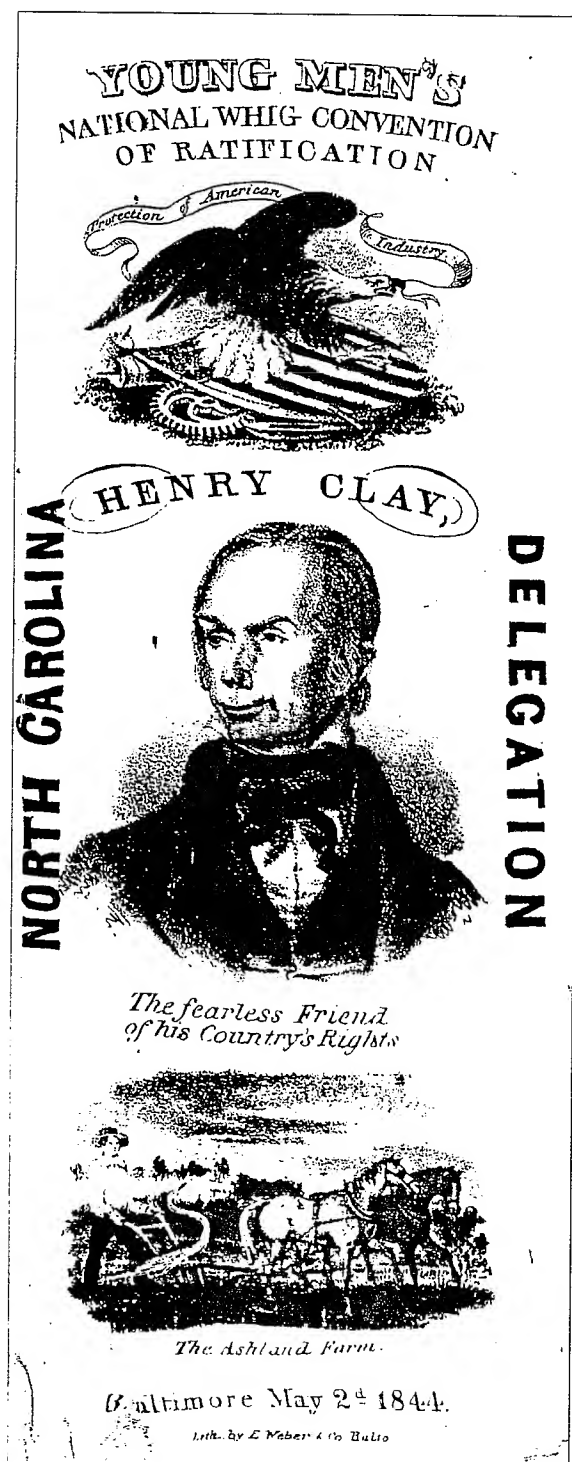
Mr. John Newberry this spring sold me a shad for which shad I gave him the sum of fifty cents, it was said to be the first shad of the season.

T. Beckwith

Apr 2nd 1857

MNK

(Thomas Beckwith was an attorney of Plymouth. ed)



WHIGS

In the 1840's Washington County overwhelmingly supported the "Whigs", the party of internal improvement and the rights of slaveholders. Henry Clay of Kentucky was a stalwart leader of the Party. He served as U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, and ramrodded the "Compromise of 1850". He was, several times, the Whig candidate for President of the United States.

In the *Pettigrew Papers, Vol. II*, we find: "Washington (and Tyrrell) County Whigs who were active during this period included, in addition to William Shepard Pettigrew, Josiah Collins, Ashbury Norman, Dr. Hardy Hardison, Doctrine Davenport, and Noah M. Phelps, all named delegates to attend the 1842 state convention, and Gen. Hezekiah G. Spruill, Samuel Newberry, Absalom Davenport, William D. Davenport, John Nichols, John B. Chesson, William L. Chesson, and Nathaniel Beckwith."

The "National Convention of 1844" badge shown at left is of silk. Background is buff, lettering is black, and other colors appropriate. i.e., the eagle and the shield of the United States, and blue sky at "Ashland" (Clay's plantation near Lexington, KY).

The badge may have been worn by Ashbury Norman (1811-1856), as it was found among other of his belongings.

EAN

WHAT TO BELIEVE?

Almost every book on family history has a section on reliability of data, and warns that genealogists need to double check even the most respected sources, whether a book, a pedigree chart, a census index, a census entry, etc. Misspellings of names by hurried scribes, omissions of a portion of an original document being recopied, or even carelessness on the part of family members contribute to the problems of present-day researchers. Obviously, **primary** sources—those made at or near the time of the event and by someone central to that event, are likely to be more reliable than those which are **secondary**—made after some time has passed by someone who may be compiling, abstracting, copying, or interpreting information from other sources. A good discussion of this topic will be found in *North Carolina Research, Genealogy and Local History*, by Helen F. M. Leary, 2nd Edition.

Just because a statement is found in a book, carved in stone, or appears on the Internet does not guarantee that it is correct. Even memories of some of the participants or descendants may prove to be incorrect, when cross-checked with other data. We genealogists must assume that until “proven” to our satisfaction, “It ain’t necessarily so.” The following is an example of the need for careful examination of information, using Chesson records:

On the Internet at several locations, and on some family group sheets provided to me over the years, will be found these birth and death dates for **Hezekiah CHESSON**: born 26 October 1784, died 11 August 1869. Quite likely these reported dates come from his tombstone, which I have seen and photographed near Roper, NC. And on that stone there also appears “64 y 9 m 16 d.” So, let’s do some arithmetic: born Oct 1784, add about 65 years, and we get **1849, not 1869!** Did a stonecarver or a family member use the wrong year for Hezekiah’s death? Or did Hezekiah live much longer than the nearly 65 years recorded on his head stone? Obviously, something is wrong with this single source of information!

Luckily, an old Bible has survived that lists birth and death dates for Hezekiah and others of his family. The Bible entry shows: “Hezekiah Chesson Son of Joshua Chesson and Martha his Wife was bornd oct the 26. 1784...Hezekiah Chesson Died August the 11th 1849 at 15 minets after 7 oclock in the morning Aged 64 years 9 months and 16 days...” And, if we do the arithmetic with this information, the entries do check! But since we don’t know who made those Bible entries or when, further checking may be wise. Fortunately, there is more data.

At the time of the **1850** census a Mortality Schedule was prepared listing those who had died within the past year. Among the entries for Washington County, NC (where Hezekiah lived) is “Hezekiah Chesson 75 M born NC Died July, farmer by profession, Died of old age.” Well, whoever advised that census taker might have recalled information from memory since Hezekiah’s age is about ten years off and the month of death is one month off in this report. This entry does offer support for the August 11, **1849** death date found in the Bible and for the 64y9m16d Bible and tombstone notations. Is there something else in the records? The division of the estate of Hezekiah was delayed, apparently because of his two marriages and because of the two sets of children (named in the document) that resulted. In a court record of 9 December **1868** we find repeated mention that Hezekiah Chesson is deceased and reference to his will (I have not yet located a copy). If Hezekiah was deceased by December, **1868** then he must have died before August 11, **1869!**

So, from the above, it looks highly probable that **Hezekiah CHESSON** was born 26 October 1784 and died 11 August 1849. Thus, his tombstone and an official Mortality Schedule both contain errors. It pays to crosscheck and use as much information as can be found, weighing the likelihood of the validity of that information.

EC



A HORROR TALE (Not For Genealogists At Bedtime)

Grant Harold Collar, Jr., in his *Newberry Family And In-Laws*, mentions Whitford Swain, a genealogist of the Pea Ridge community. Swain had, I believe, responded to a query about the site of some Newberry burials.

Many of us well remember "Whit" Swain, and regret that we didn't attempt to learn from his considerable research, but he died before most of us developed our current keen interest in our family and local history.

One thing we remember of Whit is his car. He and his younger brother, Loomis, bought a Model T, or was it an "A", in cahoots, and lovingly restored it. Each had possession of it for six months each year. We suspect that Whit drove it on many of his genealogical expeditions. Who wouldn't share family facts and stories with good, gentle, drawling Whit, whose like-new old Ford was parked, glistening black, in one's front yard?

Some years after bachelor Whit's death, I learned of his research. In high hope, I traced his sister, then living near Edenton. "Yes," she said, "Whit had two thick, full notebooks of that stuff. Cleaning out his effects, I looked through them, and didn't know any of those people. So, I took them out to the back yard, and burned them with the other trash." I was not the first to inquire of Whit's work, and the enormity of her destruction was now clear to her.

This "horror story", like many chilling tales, has its moral. Let us all make adequate provision that the histories that we have compiled are not destroyed by our heirs and assigns.



Joseph Doctor Newberry and William Newberry were Overseer and Under-Overseer, respectively, at "Somerset" when Edward and Hugh Collins drowned in Transportation Canal on February 2, 1843.

The Pettigrew Papers

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